2. 6043/6044 Madras-Patna Express from weekly to bi-weekly.

3. 6045/6046 Madras-Ahmadabad Navjeevan Express from 6 days a week to daily.

4. 8301/8302 Hirakud Express from tri-weekly to 4 days a week.

5. 4863/4864 Marudhar Express from tri-weekly to 4 days a week.

6. 8403/8404 Puri-Ahmedabad Express from weekly to tri-weekly.

7. 6339/6340 Nagercoil-Mumbai CST Express from weekly to tri-weekly.

8. 7003/7004 Howrah-Secunderabad Falaknuma Express from tri-weekly to daily.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to increase the frequency of 2421/2422 New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express from weekly to bi-weekly on availability of additional Rajdhani rake from Production units.

Introduction of BOLT Scheme

333. DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date of the introduction of BOLT scheme by Railways;

(b) the main objectives of the scheme;

(c) the details of private sector participation in the BOLT scheme in different Railway Projects; and

(d) the progress of those projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) scheme was started by the Railways in November, 1994.

(b) To undertake some of the projects through investment by private sector, in view of a sharp reduction in budgetary support for Railways' expansion plans.

(c) The following firms submitted their bids for various projects under BOLT scheme :

Gauge Conversion & Doubling

1. M/s Western India Industries Ltd., Pune.
2. M/s Shakthi Concrete Industries Ltd., Hyderabad.
3. M/s Hydron Enviro Systems Ltd., Ahmedabad.
4. M/s Indian Railway Constn. Co., Ltd., New Delhi.
5. M/s G.S. Pandey & Co., Gorakhpur.
6. M/s Mukand Ltd., Thane.
7. M/s Kalindee Rail Nirman (Engineers) Ltd., Jaipur.
8. M/s progressive constn., New Delhi.
9. M/s Tantia Constn., Calcutta.
10. M/s Kalindee Infrastructure Development (P) Ltd., New Delhi.

Railway Electrification

1. M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Madras.
2. M/s KEC (International) Ltd., Madras.
3. M/s SAE (India) Ltd., New Delhi.
4. M/s SPIC-SMO Ltd., Madras.

Rolling Stock

1. M/s BHEL, Bhopal.
2. M/s IDBI, Bombay.
3. M/s IRCON, New Delhi.
4. M/s Jagson International, New Delhi.
5. M/s BESCO, Calcutta.
6. M/s CIMMCo, Calcutta.
7. M/s Tebma Engg. Ltd., Madras.
8. M/s. BEML, Bangalore.
9. M/s SRF Finance, New Delhi.

Track Machines

1. M/s Plasser & Theurer, Austria.
2. M/s. Engineering Prestressed Antri Unit, Gwalior.
3. M/s Jagson International, New Delhi.
4. M/s Ameca, Italy.
5. M/s RAUTARUUKKI, Finland.
6. M/s Kershaw, USA.
7. M/s Loram, USA.

(d) Out of a total of 34 tenders for various projects invited under BOLT Scheme, contract has been awarded in four cases (Two for gauge conversion and two for rolling stock). 11 tender cases are under finalisation and 19 have been dropped.

Fare Increased by Konkan Railway Corporation

334. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Konkan Railway corporation has increased the passenger and the goods fare by 40% from September, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the fare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). In view of the high cost of construction, maintenance and operation charges coupled with low Internal Rate of